(c) whether it is also a fact that efforts made for the development of small scale industries in the past years have proved futile; and

(d) if so, the reasons for decrease in the number of products of small scale industries in the reserved list continuously during the recent years?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. On the contrary, the exports of products manufactured by the small scale industries (SSI) continue to account for nearly 33 per cent of the total exports from India.

(c) No, Sir. The number of SSI units has grown from nearly 105.21 lakh in 2001 -02 to about 118.59 lakh in 2004-05. This sector has also registered rate of growth in terms of value of production which has generally been than that of the rest of the inudstrial sector.

(d) There is no specific empirical evidence to suggest that the deletion of products from the reserved list during the recent years has, by itself, adversely affected the overall performance of the SSI which has been positive throughout these years. The de-reservation of products reserved for exclusive manufacture by the SSI is carried out with a view of enhancing, among other things, their competitiveness. Further, the total number of such reserved products at present constitutes just about 8.43 per cent of the total number of products actually manufactured by the SSI.

Package for SSIs

†1446. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to introduce incentive packages for Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the the criterion for the same;

(c) whether Government are considering to set any criterion for quality production in Small Scale Industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Though the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are primarily responsible for the promotion and development of small scale industries (SSI), the Central Government implements a number of schemes/ programmes to provide, among others, credit, infrastructure, marketing and technology upgradation support to the SSI sector.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The overall objective of the schemes/programmes referred to in part (a) above is to enhance the efficiency, productivity, quality and competitiveness of the SSI.

(c) and (d) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has laid down standards for a large number of products manufactured by the SSI. The Central Government has established four Regional Testing Centres and seven Field Testing Stations at various places in the country to provide necessary facilities to the SSI for testing the quality of their products. Besides, the Central Government also implements a scheme for reimbursement of the cost of obtaining ISO 9000/14001 certification upto Rs. 75,000, with a view to enhancing the quality of production in the SSI.

Suggestion of ASSOCHAM on investment ceiling in SSIs

†1447. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ASSOCHAM has advised to increase the investment ceiling in small scale industries from one crore to five crore;

(b) if so, Government's response thereon; and

(c) by when a final decision would be taken on the above suggestion of the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry in India (ASSOCHAM)?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has so far notified enhancement of the ceiling on investment from Rs 1 crore to Rs. 5 crore (excluding land and building) in respect of small scale industries manufacturing 140 notified products and as well as drugs and pharmaceuticals. The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Bill, 2005, introduced in the Lok Sabha on 12 May 2005, includes provision to classify a manufacturing small enterprise as one in which the investment in plant and machinery (excluding land and building) is upto Rs. 5 crore.

Status of SSI in Andhra Pradesh

1448. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the status of SSI in Andhra Pradesh in the present context of globalisation and entry of global players in the domestic market;

(b) whether his Ministry has evolved any policy to safeguard Small Scale Industry in the country as they have to face stiff competition from global players; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.